



TIMBERLINE TRAIL PROJECT

Public Comment Summary

February 2009



Introduction

The following is a summary of public comments regarding the Timberline Trail Project that were obtained from a public meeting held on Wednesday, January 14, 2009. The meeting took place at the Summit Fire Department Station #33 located on Highway 89. Approximately 143 people attended the meeting. The primary purpose of the meeting was to describe the Timberline Trail Project and obtain public comments about the project. An overview about the project was presented to all in attendance, and then attendees were asked to provide their comments in smaller groups at six different tables. Public comments were recorded either on a flip chart as individuals provided their comments verbally or on a written public comment form. In addition, people submitted comments after the meeting via e-mail or by letter to the U.S. Forest Service and / or Coconino County Parks & Recreation Department.

Public Comment Summary

There were 89 written public comments received from January 14, 2009 to February 4, 2009 that were compiled to develop this summary. Personnel from the U.S. Forest Service and Coconino County Parks and Recreation Department worked collaboratively in reviewing and summarizing the public comments. Respondents who offered a general opinion about the project were 45% (38 comments) supportive of the project; 43% (36 comments) against the project; and 12% (10 comments) undecided. Five respondents did not indicate a preference. Respondents were asked to indicate why they held their general opinion. Categories of comments received are reported next, in three groups: issues, recommendations, and benefits.

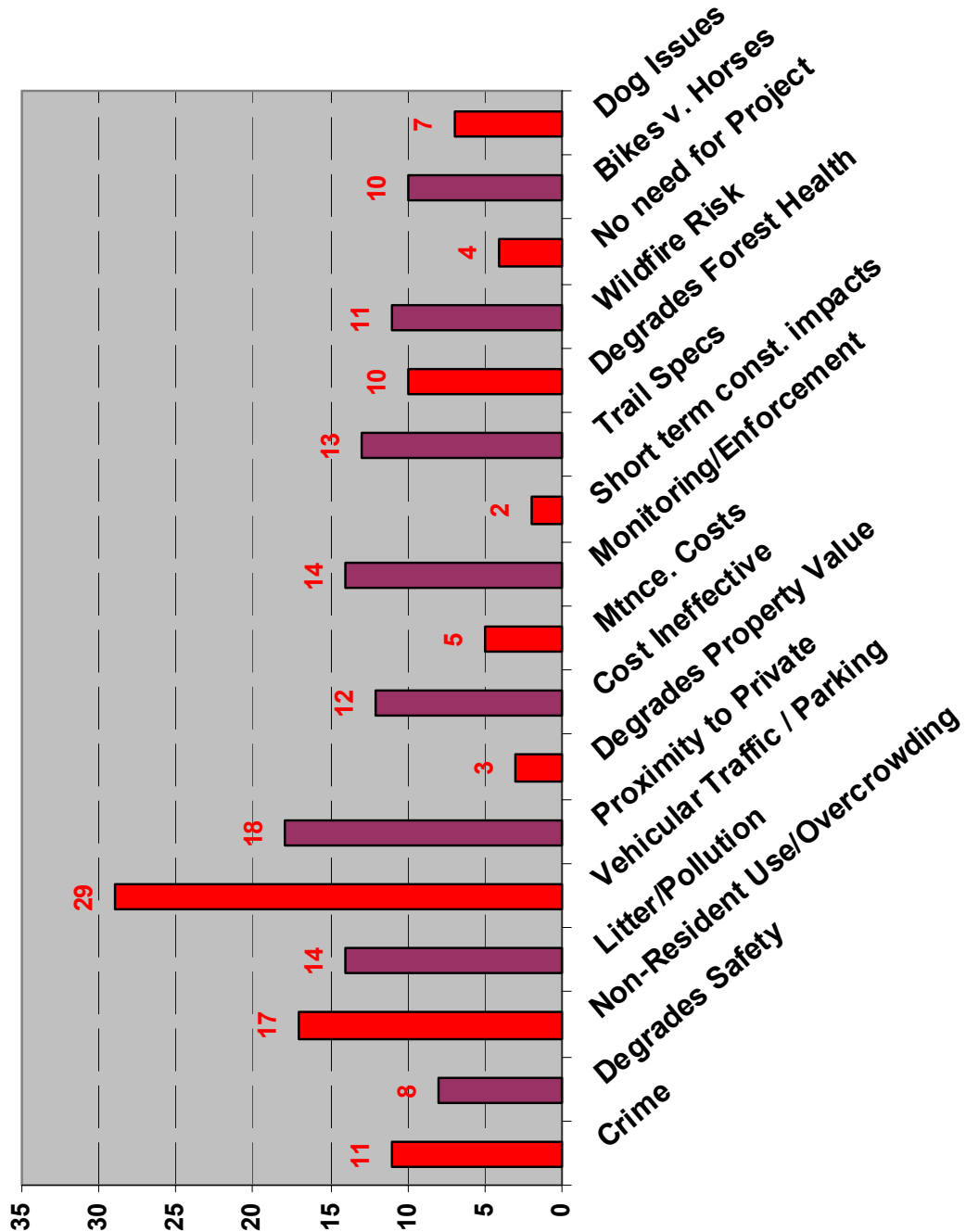
Issues

The top three reasons people felt the project would be detrimental were:

- (1) Vehicular traffic / parking: non-residents using and parking in the neighborhoods.
- (2) Proximity to private land: constructing a trail too close to private land.
- (3) Non-resident use / overcrowding: an increase with transients and non-residents in the area.

The graph on the next page reflects the reasons for opposition to the trail based on public comments:

Public Comments Reasons of Opposition to the Trail



Recommendations

The top two suggestions or recommendations provided by the public comments were:

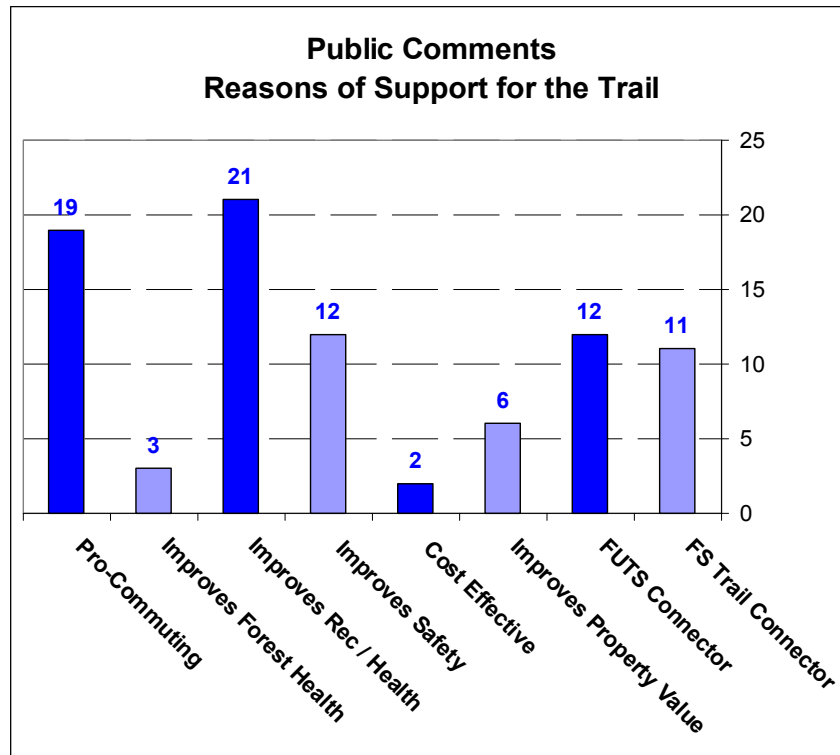
- (1) Propose a new trailhead location: many suggested a trailhead on Little Elden Springs Road
- (2) Remove proposed access from neighborhoods to main trail: current neighborhood access is adequate.

Benefits

The top three reasons people felt the project would be beneficial were:

- (1) Improves recreation / health: provides a healthy outdoor recreation experience in the area.
- (2) Pro-commuting: provides a designated trail route to access Flagstaff from Doney Park area.
- (3) Safe trails that connect to other trails: provides designated trails that connect to Flagstaff Urban Trail system and other Forest Service trails in a safe and sustainable manner.

The following graph reflects the reasons for support of the trail based on public comments:



For Additional Information

To access the compiled datasheet from which this summary was created, go to the County Parks' website located at <http://www.coconino.az.gov/parks/> and follow the links to the webpage about Timberline Trail.

Next Steps

Based on the public comments and other pertinent information, a recommendation of how to proceed with this project will be presented to the District Ranger at the Peaks Ranger District, Coconino County Manager, and County Supervisors of Districts Two and Four. Upon their review, an update on the status of this project will be shared with all interested parties.